

Konferencija COP27 o klimatskim promjenama: hitno djelovanje potrebno je Africi i cijelomu svijetu

COP27 Climate Change Conference: urgent action needed for Africa and the world

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¹East African Medical Journal

²West African Journal of Medicine

³Sierra Leone Journal of Biomedical Research

⁴Ethiopian Journal of Health Sciences

⁵Annales Africaines de Medecine

⁶Annals of African Surgery

⁷University of Exeter

⁸African Journal of Primary Health Care & Family Medicine

⁹London School of Medicine and Tropical Hygiene

¹⁰Curatiosis

¹¹Ghana Medical Journal

¹²African Journal of Reproductive Health

¹³Eastern Mediterranean Health Journal

¹⁴Mali Médical

¹⁵Journal de la Faculté de Médecine d'Oran

¹⁶African Health Sciences

¹⁷Evidence-Based Nursing Research

¹⁸La Tunisie Médicale

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Bogate zemlje moraju povećati podršku Africi i ranjivim državama u rješavanju prošlih, sadašnjih i budućih posljedica klimatskih promjena

Izvješće Međuvladina povjerenstva za klimatske promjene (IPPC, prema engl. *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*) iz 2022. opisuje mračnu sliku života na Zemlji u budućnosti, obilježenu raspadima ekosustava, izumiranjem vrsta te klimatskim opasnostima kao što su toplinski valovi i poplave¹. Ti su učinci klimatskih promjena povezani i s tjelesnim i mentalnim teškoćama u ljudi s izravnim i neizravnim posljedičnim povećanjem pobola i smrtnosti. Kako bi se izbjegle takve katastrofalne zdravstvene posljedice u svim regijama svijeta, široko je prihvaćeno – kao što je skupina od 231 zdravstvenog časopisa zajednički izjavila 2021. – da se

Wealthy nations must step up support for Africa and vulnerable countries in addressing past, present and future impacts of climate change

The 2022 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) paints a dark picture of the future of life on earth, characterised by ecosystem collapse, species extinction, and climate hazards such as heatwaves and floods¹. These are all linked to physical and mental health problems, with direct and indirect consequences of increased morbidity and mortality. To avoid these catastrophic health effects across all regions of the globe, there is broad agreement—as 231 health journals argued together in 2021—that the rise in global temperature must be limited to less than 1.5°C compared with pre-industrial levels.

Ovaj se komentar istodobno objavljuje u više časopisa. Za puni popis časopisa vidjeti: / This Comment is being published simultaneously in multiple journals. For the full list of journals see: <https://www.bmj.com/content/full-list-authors-and-signatories-climate-emergency-editorial-october-2022>

rast globalne temperature mora ograničiti na manje od 1,5 °C u usporedbi s predindustrijskim razinama.

Iako Pariški sporazum iz 2015. opisuje globalni okvir djelovanja koji uključuje pružanje klimatske financijske potpore zemljama u razvoju, ta potpora dosad nije ostvarena². COP27 je peta Konferencija stranaka (COP; prema engl. *Conference of Parties*) koja se organizira u Africi nakon prve konferencije održane 1995. godine. U iščekivanju spomenute konferencije, mi – kao urednici časopisa diljem kontinenta – pozivamo na hitno djelovanje kako bismo osigurali da ovo bude COP sastanak kojim će se napokon postići klimatska pravda za Afriku i ranjive zemlje. To je nužno ne samo za zdravlje tih zemalja nego i za zdravlje cijeloga svijeta.

Afrika je pretrpjela nerazmjernu štetu, iako je vrlo malo pridonijela nastanku ove krize

Klimatska je kriza imala velik učinak na okoliš i društvene čimbenike diljem Afrike, što je dovelo do razornih posljedica za zdravlje³. Učinci na zdravlje mogu biti izravna posljedica ekoloških šokova ili neizravna posljedica društveno posredovanih učinaka⁴. Rizici vezani uz klimatske promjene u Africi uključuju poplave, suše, toplinske valove, smanjenu proizvodnju hrane i smanjenu radnu produktivnost⁵.

Suše u supsaharskoj Africi utrostručile su se uspoređujući razdoblje od 1970. do 1979. s godinama 2010. i 2019.⁶ U 2018. godini razorne ciklone pogodile su tri milijuna ljudi u državama Malavi, Mozambik i Zimbabve⁶. U zapadnoj i središnjoj Africi velike su poplave dovele do smrtnosti i prisilnih migracija zbog uništenja domova, kultivirane zemlje i stoke⁷. Promjene u zdravstvenoj ekologiji zbog poplava i oštećenja u ekološkoj higijeni uzrokovale su povećane stope bolesti diljem supsaharske Afrike, uz porast stopa malarije, denga groznice, groznice Lassa, groznice Riftske doline, lajmske bolesti, ebolavirusa, virusa zapadnog Nila i drugih zaraza^{8,9}. Porast razine mora smanjuje kvalitetu vode, što dovodi do bolesti koje se prenose vodom, uključujući proljevne bolesti koje su jedan od vodećih uzroka smrti u Africi⁸. Ekstremni vremenski uvjeti oštećuju zalihe vode i hrane, smanjujući sigurnost opskrbe hranom i povećavajući neishranjenost, koja svake godine uzrokuje 1,7 milijuna smrti u Africi¹⁰. Prema Organizaciji za prehranu i poljoprivredu Ujedinjenih naroda, neishranjenost je porasla za gotovo 50 % od 2012., zbog središnje uloge koju poljoprivreda ima u ekonomijama afričkih zemalja¹¹. Ekološki šokovi i njihove posljedice također uzrokuju ozbiljnu štetu za mentalno zdravlje¹². Sveukupno se procjenjuje da je klimatska kriza uništila petinu bruto domaćeg proizvoda u zemljama koje su najranjivije na klimatske šokove¹³.

Šteta nanosena Africi trebala bi biti od vrhovne važnosti svim zemljama u svijetu. Djelomično je tako zbog moralnih razloga. Iznimno je nepravdedno da su upravo najpogođenije zemlje one koje su najmanje pridonijele kumulativnim globalnim emisijama koje uzrokuju klimatsku krizu i njezine sve teže posljedice. Udio Sjeverne Amerike i Europe u emisijama ugljikova dioksida od industrijske je revolucije 62 %, dok je Afrika pridonijela samo 3 %¹⁴.

U borbi protiv klimatske krize moramo sudjelovati svi

No zemlje svijeta ne bi se trebale brinuti o Africi isključivo zbog moralnih razloga. Akutne i kronične posljedice klimat-

While the Paris Agreement of 2015 outlines a global action framework that incorporates providing climate finance to developing countries, this support has yet to materialise². COP27 is the fifth Conference of the Parties (COP) to be organised in Africa since its inception in 1995. Ahead of this meeting, we—as health journal editors from across the continent—call for urgent action to ensure it is the COP that finally delivers climate justice for Africa and vulnerable countries. This is essential not just for the health of those countries, but for the health of the whole world.

Africa has suffered disproportionately although it has done little to cause the crisis

The climate crisis has had an impact on the environmental and social determinants of health across Africa, leading to devastating health effects³. Impacts on health can result directly from environmental shocks and indirectly through socially mediated effects⁴. Climate change-related risks in Africa include flooding, drought, heatwaves, reduced food production, and reduced labour productivity⁵.

Droughts in sub-Saharan Africa have tripled between 1970-79 and 2010-2019⁶. In 2018, devastating cyclones impacted three million people in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe⁶. In west and central Africa, severe flooding resulted in mortality and forced migration from loss of shelter, cultivated land, and livestock⁷. Changes in vector ecology brought about by floods and damage to environmental hygiene have led to increases in diseases across sub-Saharan Africa, with rises in malaria, dengue fever, Lassa fever, Rift Valley fever, Lyme disease, Ebola virus, West Nile virus and other infections^{8,9}. Rising sea levels reduce water quality, leading to water-borne diseases, including diarrhoeal diseases, a leading cause of mortality in Africa⁸. Extreme weather damages water and food supply, increasing food insecurity and malnutrition, which causes 1.7 million deaths annually in Africa¹⁰. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, malnutrition has increased by almost 50% since 2012, owing to the central role agriculture plays in African economies¹¹. Environmental shocks and their knock-on effects also cause severe harm to mental health¹². In all, it is estimated that the climate crisis has destroyed a fifth of the gross domestic product (GDP) of the countries most vulnerable to climate shocks¹³.

The damage to Africa should be of supreme concern to all nations. This is partly for moral reasons. It is highly unjust that the most impacted nations have contributed the least to global cumulative emissions, which are driving the climate crisis and its increasingly severe effects. North America and Europe have contributed 62% of carbon dioxide emissions since the Industrial Revolution, whereas Africa has contributed only 3%¹⁴.

The fight against the climate crisis needs all hands on deck

Yet it is not just for moral reasons that all nations should be concerned for Africa. The acute and chronic impacts of the climate crisis create problems like poverty, infectious disease, forced migration, and conflict that spread through globalised

ske krize stvaraju probleme kao što su siromaštvo, zarazne bolesti, prisilna migracija i sukobi koji se šire kroz globalizirane sustave^{6,15}. Takve neizravne posljedice klimatske krize utječu na sve države svijeta. COVID-19 bio je poziv na buđenje glede te globalne dinamike učinaka, pa nipošto nije slučajnost da su upravo zdravstveni stručnjaci aktivni u identifikaciji i borbi protiv posljedica rastućih sustavnih rizika za zdravlje. No lekcije naučene iz pandemije virusa uzročnika bolesti COVID-19 ne bi trebalo ograničavati samo na pandemijski rizik^{16,17}. Umjesto toga, nužno je da stradanja zemalja koje su najviše pogođene, uključujući i one u Africi, budu u središtu rasprave na konferenciji COP27: u međusobno povezanom svijetu, prepuštanje država na milost i nemilost ekološkim šokovima uzrokuje razne oblike nestabilnosti s ozbiljnim posljedicama za sve zemlje svijeta.

Središnji cilj klimatskih konferencija i dalje je ubrzano smanjenje emisija kako bi se globalni porast temperature zadržao na manje od 1,5 °C. Time će se ograničiti buduća šteta. No za zemlje Afrike i drugih ranjivih regija šteta je već sada ozbiljna. Postizanje obećanog cilja od pružanja 100 milijardi dolara klimatske financijske pomoći godišnje sada je od kritične globalne važnosti kako bismo spriječili sustavne rizike koji će nastupiti ako ova društva ostanu u krizi. Spomenute je rizike moguće umanjiti uporabom tih financijskih resursa za poboljšavanje otpornosti na postojeće i neizbježne buduće učinke klimatske krize te za potporu ranjivim zemljama u smanjivanju emisija stakleničkih plinova: davanjem jednakog prioriteta adaptaciji i mitigaciji. Te bi resurse trebalo pružiti u obliku donacija, a ne posudbi, te ih hitno povećati prije kraja trenutalnoga revizijskog razdoblja koje traje do 2025. godine. Otpornost zdravstvenog sustava treba biti glavni prioritet, jer se zbrojni učinak kriza uzrokovanih klimatskom krizom često očituje u akutnim zdravstvenim problemima. Pružanje financijske potpore za adaptaciju bit će učinkovitije od oslanjanja na pružanje pomoći neposredno nakon vremenskih katastrofa.

Postignuti su neki napredci u prilagodbi na klimatske promjene i u Africi i u svijetu, koji uključuju sustave ranog upozoravanja i infrastrukturu za obranu od ekstremnih vremenskih uvjeta. No države koje su na prvoj crti ne dobivaju naknadu za posljedice krize koju nisu uzrokovale. To je ne samo nepravedno nego također potiče spiralu globalne destabilizacije, pri čemu države troše financijske resurse na neposrednu borbu s vremenskim katastrofama pa ne mogu više ulagati u povećanje otpornosti ili ublaživanje osnovnih uzroka krize kroz smanjenje emisija. Potrebno je uvesti i financijsko postrojenje pružanje dodatnih resursa za nošenje s izravnim gubitcima i štetom od klimatskih promjena, koji bi se pružali usporedo s resursima koji se daju za mitigaciju i adaptaciju. Time se mora otići korak dalje od neuspjeha konferencije COP26, gdje je prijedlog uspostave takvog postrojenja bio degradiran u „dijalog“ o toj temi¹⁸.

Klimatska je kriza proizvod globalnog nedjelovanja te ima veliku cijenu ne samo za nerazmjerno pogođene afričke zemlje nego i za cijeli svijet. Afrika i ostale regije koje su na prvoj crti te krize zajednički pozivaju bogate zemlje da napokon preuzmu odgovornost i počnu djelovati, pa makar zato što će se krize u Africi ubrzo proširiti i zahvatiti sve dijelove svijeta, kada već može biti prekasno za učinkoviti odgovor. Ako bogate zemlje dosad nisu uvjerali argumenti na temelju moralne odgovornosti, nadamo se da će ih sada vlastiti interes potaknuti na djelovanje.

systems^{6,15}. These knock-on impacts affect all nations. COVID-19 served as a wake-up call to these global dynamics and it is no coincidence that health professionals have been active in identifying and responding to the consequences of growing systemic risks to health. But the lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic should not be limited to pandemic risk^{16,17}. Instead, it is imperative that the suffering of frontline nations, including those in Africa, be the core consideration at COP27: in an interconnected world, leaving countries to the mercy of environmental shocks creates instability that has severe consequences for all nations.

The primary focus of climate summits remains to rapidly reduce emissions so that global temperature rises are kept to below 1.5 °C. This will limit the harm. But, for Africa and other vulnerable regions, this harm is already severe. Achieving the promised target of providing \$100bn of climate finance a year is now globally critical if we are to forestall the systemic risks of leaving societies in crisis. This can be done by ensuring these resources focus on increasing resilience to the existing and inevitable future impacts of the climate crisis, as well as on supporting vulnerable nations to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions: a parity of esteem between adaptation and mitigation. These resources should come through grants not loans, and be urgently scaled up before the current review period of 2025. They must put health system resilience at the forefront, as the compounding crises caused by the climate crisis often manifest in acute health problems. Financing adaptation will be more cost-effective than relying on disaster relief.

Some progress has been made on adaptation in Africa and around the world, including early warning systems and infrastructure to defend against extremes. But frontline nations are not compensated for impacts from a crisis they did not cause. This is not only unfair, but also drives the spiral of global destabilisation, as nations pour money into responding to disasters, but can no longer afford to pay for greater resilience or to reduce the root problem through emissions reductions. A financing facility for loss and damage must now be introduced, providing additional resources beyond those given for mitigation and adaptation. This must go beyond the failures of COP26 where the suggestion of such a facility was downgraded to “a dialogue”¹⁸.

The climate crisis is a product of global inaction, and comes at great cost not only to disproportionately impacted African countries, but to the whole world. Africa is united with other frontline regions in urging wealthy nations to finally step up, if for no other reason than that the crises in Africa will sooner rather than later spread and engulf all corners of the globe, by which time it may be too late to effectively respond. If so far they have failed to be persuaded by moral arguments, then hopefully their self-interest will now prevail.

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